

Teaming Effort Delivers State-of-the-Art Truck to Marines

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The Marine Corps took ownership of its first 21st century state-of-the-art truck designated the MK23, at a rollout ceremony held in Oshkosh, Wis., Jan. 19. The development and production of the new truck was made possible through a partnering effort between the U.S. Marines, U.S. Army, and Oshkosh Truck Corp.

A Joint Remanufacturing Effort

The Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) program is unique because it began as a joint remanufacturing effort between the Army and Marines, which eventually evolved into a new vehicle for the Marine Corps.

As the lead Service, the U.S. Marines under the direction of Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Manley, PM-Transportation Systems, Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is responsible for program oversight and management of the program under the policies and procedures set forth by the Department of the Navy.

In addition, all acquisition, contractual, engineering, quality, and test and evaluation actions are directed by product manager, Army Lt. Col. Walter Raymond Jr., under the Program Executive Office, Ground Combat and Support Systems (PEO-GCSS), Warren, Mich.

The competitive selection one year ago of the Oshkosh Truck Corp. as the production contractor marked the beginning of a successful joint relationship with the mission of acquiring the best MTVR system possible, within program cost and schedule, to replace the U.S. Marines' medium tactical wheeled vehi-



From left: Robert J. Bohn, President and CEO, Oshkosh Truck Corp., greets Marine Brig. Gen. James M. Feigley, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command in front of an MTVR

cle fleet. The Partnering relationship, according to all involved, contributed significantly to production of a quality system that meets performance requirements, reduces life cycle cost, and improves the Marines' warfighting capability. The contract calls for the production and delivery of 5,666 vehicles and includes options for an additional 2,502 vehicles.

Rollout Ceremony at Oshkosh

The Oshkosh Truck Corp. hosted a first-class ceremony featuring guest speakers Marine Brig. Gen. James M. Feigley, Commander, Marine Corps Systems Com-

mand; Robert Bohn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Oshkosh Truck Corp.; and Paul Hollowell, President of Defense Business, Oshkosh Truck Corp. Representing PEO-GCSS, Raymond spoke on behalf of Army Maj. Gen. John Michitsch

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered

The highlight of the ceremony was the signing of the first Material Inspection and Receiving Report (DD 250) by Army Col. Anita Moyer, commander, Defense Contract Management Command, Chicago; and a ribbon cutting by Feigley, Raymond, and Bohn to commemorate the rollout. The ceremony was also

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The Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR)

attended by a representative of the Wisconsin Governor's office who congratulated Oshkosh Truck on behalf of Wisconsin Gov. Tommy G. Thompson.

Additional guests included Dan Cox, Professional Staff Member, Senate Armed Services Committee; individuals from the offices of two U.S. Representatives; and many other government and industry personnel.

Technological Superiority

The MTVR evolved from an advanced-technology demonstrator, inexpensively built and tested through a joint government/industry effort to a validated systems concept. The MTVR program goal for the U.S. Marines is to field a cost-effective, state-of-the-art system to replace its existing fleet of M809 and M939 series of 5-ton medium tactical trucks. Production is scheduled from fiscal 1999 through fiscal 2003.

A technologically superior vehicle, the MTVR offers cargo capacities of 7.1 tons off-road and 15 tons on-road. Its increased agility and mobility over diverse terrain is well suited for the expeditionary nature of Marine Corps' missions. A Central Tire Inflation System (CTIS) and six-wheel Oshkosh modular-independent suspension combine to support the 70-percent off-road requirements.

Life Cycle Cost Reduction

Life cycle costs are significantly reduced as the MTVR performance specification requires a 22-year vehicle life with no midlife depot rebuild. An aggressive 22-year anti-corrosion requirement further contributes to the extended life of the vehicle. Adoption of the prime Contractor Logistics Support (CLS), Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals (IETM), systems simulators, and computer-based learning will strengthen sup-

portability, cut diagnostic troubleshooting efforts, facilitate operator and maintenance mastery of occupational skills, while slashing system support costs and enhancing readiness.

Nine Years in the Making

Raymond addressed the audience on behalf of Michitsch proclaiming, "...Today is a culmination of nearly nine years of effort, to provide the Marine Corps a high-performance, cost-effective medium truck for the future ... This truck's success and capabilities," he continued, "are a direct result of the team's commitment and dedication to making the MTVR the medium truck of the future."

Sharing Responsibility

Feigley delivered inspirational remarks connecting all those individuals building the truck to the Marine who will ultimately become the end user. On behalf of all Marines, he honored those who built "...the finest piece of equipment of its type in the world." He emphasized the trust that the Marine Corps has in Oshkosh Truck Corp. and that a connection with each Oshkosh employee who worked on the MTVR follows the truck wherever it's deployed ... That connection," Feigley continued, "now extends back to this very place. When you deliver this truck, and the thousands to follow, you will now share some of that responsibility for our success or failure. When you make things for the Marines you are connected, and I wanted to remind you of that."

Future Systems Development

The MTVR will undergo performance and operational testing from February through August 2000. A follow-on research and development contract for vehicle variants has been awarded to study the feasibility of producing wreckers and dump trucks that will be welcome additions to the Marines' fleet of vehicles through the year 2000 and beyond.

Editor's Note: The author welcomes questions or comments on this article. Contact her at BrownS@tacom.army.mil.